

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Bernie Erickson, Sherry Steenbock, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Delores Pierce, Jerry Polus, Donald Bettine, John Maino
EXCUSED: John Walschinski, Joe Witkowski

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1187**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:02 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 15, 2011:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DONALD BETTINE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion re: Memorial Day Ceremonies:

Don Bettine indicated that colors will line up at 6:00 p.m. on Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) and the ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Admiral Flatley Park. There will be a color guard to bring the colors in and then the units will proceed and throw the wreaths in the river. They will also make a request of the City to block off the River Walk during the time of the ceremony to minimize distractions.

6. Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011):

Jerry Polus reported that he had received a response from the Wisconsin National Guard 132nd Army Band and unfortunately they are unable to perform at the Fair. A discussion followed regarding alternatives and suggestions included contacting the Great Lakes Navy Band to find out if they would be available to perform and what the cost would be. Other suggestions included contacting the Allouez Village Band or the Howard Suamico Village Band or one of the area high school bands such as Pulaski or Preble. Polus will follow up on these suggestions and hoped to have a band locked in by the next meeting.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus:

Polus reminded the committee of the Duck Creek Amvets Meet and Greet scheduled for Sunday, May 15, 2011 at the VFW Duck Creek Post from noon to 4:00 p.m. The purpose is to bring veterans organizations of NE Wisconsin together into a forum so that veterans can learn more about the organizations and services available to them.

Polus also reminded the committee of the "Supermarket of Benefits" sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs on June 3 – 4. This event will be held at the National Guard

Armory on Military Avenue. The purpose of this event is to bring together in one location federal, state and local agencies that provide services to veterans and their families. Information that would be available to Vets at this event includes information regarding VA health care, disability compensation/pension, loans/grants, State veteran's home, burial benefits, employment and job training, education and social security.

Polus concluded his report by stating that he had a meeting scheduled for the week of April 25 to work on getting plans in place to start a Veterans Court in Brown County. He will keep this Committee updated on progress in this regard.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski):

-Bettine reported that one of the members of the VFW Post that he belongs to had applied for an Old Glory Honor Flight last year and was put on a waiting list. This Vet had recently received a call that he would be going on the next flight however, he was concerned because his son had applied to go as the guardian but had not been notified that he was selected. Bettine was happy to report that the son has since been notified that he will be accompanying his father and they are scheduled to leave in June.

-Haskins wished to draw the committee's attention to the work John Maino had done with regard to helping an injured soldier from Keshena get a custom built, accessible home. The vet is a 29 year old man who is paralyzed from the chest down as the result of a hit and run accident in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Maino expanded on this and stated that the home is being built through Rebuilding Together of Greater Green Bay, a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to providing home repairs to income-qualified homeowners through corporate sponsorship and volunteer efforts. Their first intention was to modify the Vet's current home with a wheelchair ramp and accessible bathroom, however, when Rebuilding Together visited the home they found that several people were living in the 800 square foot home and the living room had been converted into a bedroom for the Vet. At that time a decision was made to build a new home. Rebuilding Together was able to secure a grant for the home and Maino put the word out and received offers from local companies to do the heating and cooling, plumbing, dry walling and excavating/foundation work. They are still in need of a plasterer. They will be ready to dig the foundation as soon as the weather permits.

-Maino informed the committee that the 432nd is still at Camp Atterbury in Indiana and will be heading to Afghanistan in May. Upon deployment to Afghanistan, the unit will be split up into about 10 different units. Once they are set up in Afghanistan, Maino will be in a position to know what their supply needs will be and he will then start working on whatever he can.

-Pierce reported that another soldier from Green Bay had been killed in Afghanistan on April 19, 2011. Spc. Paul Atim, 27, died in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with a bomb.

Pierce also wished to inform the committee that the last Old Glory Honor Flight that returned to Madison a few weeks ago was greeted by 3,500 well-wishers and a recent flight that returned to Wausau was met by 800 people. The last thing Pierce wished to point out was that the Veterans Pow Wow will be held in Keshena on May 21 – 22. He has attended this event in the past and felt it was a great event and well worth attending.

-Steenbock had updated copies of the committee letterhead and passed out copies to those who needed them.

9. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.

None.

10. **Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN
AT 5:33 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary